C4722-Z

- U.S. appeals court rocks franchising boat
- Sports Time collapse prompts action by regionals
- Cox suing for rate hike in San Diego
- U.K. franchising moves ahead

CableVision™

The news and features weekly of the cable television industry

March 11, 1985

Surprise bonanza in home electronics

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Leading the week 11-24

Franchise process questioned

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Preferred Communications vs. the City of Los Angeles* concludes that the process of granting a franchise in south central Los Angeles, similar to the method used in cities nationwide, was in violation of First Amendment rights to free speech.

Fowler asks for more

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Mark Fowler asked the House Appropriations Committee for a larger staff for fiscal year 1986 in order to implement the Cable Act.

Cabling Britain

The next stage in the cabling of Britain now is under way with the cable authority advertising five new areas for cable franchises, including two parts of London.

Court dismisses franchise challenge

An attempt to challenge the Denver franchising process finally ends with the decision of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to refuse to reinstate an appeal by the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

FCC issues NPRM

The Federal Communications Commission released its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement the equal employment opportunity provisions of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984.

NCTA '85

Trygve Myhren, chairman of the convention committee, says this year's fete will feature exclusive exhibit floor hours, a quality educational program and fewer frills.

United Cable considers common shares offer

United Cable Television Corp. discloses that it is considering a $40-per-share tender offer for a "substantial number" of its common shares, according to Dow Jones.

Comband campaign

General Electric has launched its marketing campaign for its Comband proprietary bandwidth compression system at the Cable-Tec Expo in Washington, D.C.

McKinney speaks

FCC Mass Media Bureau Chief James McKinney encouraged the Society of Cable Television Engineers and the National Cable Television Association to get involved in cable technical policy matters in his speech at the annual Spring Engineering Conference.

Cox Cable San Diego sues for rate dereg

Cox Cable San Diego Inc., the country's largest cable system, sues in state court to overcome city opposition to the firm's declaration that it is eligible for deregulation under state law.

Sports network officials meet

Regional cable sports network executives will gather in Florida to form a trade organization and a program development coalition in the wake of the shutdown of Sports Time and Sportsvue Cable Network.

CBS subpoenaes Turner

The television network subpoenaes Ted Turner to determine if the cable magnate's rumored plans to attempt a hostile takeover of the network are linked to Fairness in Media, a politically conservative group that has said it wants to acquire CBS.

Turner Broadcasting 1984 fiscal record

Turner Broadcasting sets net income and earnings records in fiscal 1984.

Showtime/TMC appoints Schneier

Showtime/The Movie Channel has appointed Fred Schneier senior vice president of program acquisition and enterprises to better structure the company's approach to rights acquisitions.

COVER STORY

Artist Christopher Boyer depicts the operator selling his electronic wares along with programming.

Review 28

Images calls itself "America's first fashion video television show." Reviewer Robert DiMatteo thinks *Images*, which debuted on WTBS, is an idea whose time has come.

Departments

Programming.....28
Business.....33
Stock Market.....34
Product News.....39
Events.....40
People.....41
Classifieds.....42
Advertisers' Index.....46
Cable Stats.....48
The Readers' Channel.....50

Franchising calendar

This chart examines the franchise status of communities since February 1985.

California
Chino—BuenaVision franchise agreement revoked. Accepting proposals. (12,000 homes).
Claremont—RFP revised and sent out. Bids due May 6, 1985. (9,800 homes)
East Yolo—reviewing applications from Sonic Cable, Yolo Cable TV, Yolo Cable Communications Co. and Pacific Federal Communications (10,000 homes).
La Puente—award to United Cable 11/28/84 (8,600 homes).
Los Altos—award to United Cable 12/84 (9,000 homes).
Palo Alto—negotiating with Cable Communications Co-op of Palo Alto and City Cable Partners Inc. until April (23,000 homes).
Rosemead—soliciting franchise proposals (13,114 homes).
South Monrovia—award to Falcon Communications 9/18 (5,400 homes).
Yorba Linda—deadline extended for statements of interest (12,000 homes).

Delaware
Wilmington—negotiating with Rollins Cable (140,000 homes).

District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.—award to District Cablevision 7/10/84 (254,000 homes).

Illinois
Chicago—Area I award to Communications and Cable (300,000 homes).
Countryside—award to Cablevision of Chicago 6/13/84 (2,200 homes).
Elmwood Park—award to Continental Cable 12/17/84 (9,500 homes).
Naperville—award to Rite Cable Co. of Illinois Limited. Unincorporated areas open for bids until April 1, 1985 (17,500 homes).
St. Charles, Geneva—award to Centel 7/2/84 (10,000 homes).
Wheaton—award to Centel 7/2/84 (16,000 homes).
Winnetka—survey showed interest in cable insufficient to warrant franchise.
Woodridge—terminated franchising process (260 homes).

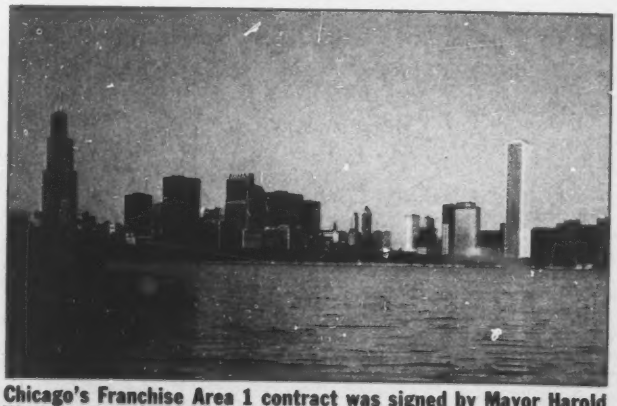
Kentucky
Fulton—award to TCI 12/13/84 (2,400 homes).
Loretto—terminated franchise process.

Maryland
Baltimore—award to United Cable 12/19/84 (302,000 homes).

Massachusetts
Belchertown—negotiating with Clearview Cablevision.
Belmont—accepting proposals until April 8, 1985 (2,760 homes).
Berkley, Dighton, Freetown—award to Continental Cablevision.
Boxborough—award to Nashoba 1/7/85 (3,100 homes).
Cambridge—reviewing proposals from American Cablesystems, Cambridge Cablevision and Cable Plus.
Danvers—award to Nashoba 1/85 (8,600 homes).
East Bridgewater—award to Continental Cable 12/3/84 (2,500 homes).
Groton—award to United Video 2/25.
Hamilton and Wenham—award to Continental Cable 3/5/84 (2,300 homes).
Holden—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems Inc. 7/84 (4,000 homes).
Holliston—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems Inc. 7/84 (3,922 homes).
Lincoln—short franchise process re-initiated. Proposals due 5/1/85.
Marblehead—award to Continental Cable 12/84.
Medfield—preliminary award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems 10/84 (3,400 homes).
Mendon—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems 1/7 (1,200 homes).
Middleborough—award to Continental Cablevision 5/14/84 (3,834 homes).
Nahant—accepting proposals on March 28 (1,433 homes).
Sandwich—award to Campbell Communications (5,000 homes).
Seekonk—preliminary award to Massachusetts Cablevision (6,000 homes).
Shirley—provisional license granted to Nashoba Communications 10/29/84 (1,827 homes).
Southborough—provisional license to Greater Worcester Cablevision (2,000 homes).
Sterling—award to Wachusett Cablevision (2,000 homes).
Stow—provisional license to Adams-Russell 9/84 (1,600 homes).
Wayland—award to Continental Cablevision 6/4/84 (3,500 homes).
Westminster—preliminary award to Adams-Russell; Adams-Russell requested revision of rate structure.
Weston—award to Continental Cable Cooperative 8/6/84 (3,000 homes).
Westport—award to United Cablevision Funding 9/4/84 (5,500 homes).

Michigan
Almont—award to Michigan Cable 11/84.
Atlas—award to Michigan Cable 8/84.
Brandon—award to Michigan Cable 11/84.
Brown City—award to Pioneer Cablevision.
Cedar Creek—award to Horizon Cable 7/84.
Dalton—award to Horizon Cable 7/84.
Goodrich—award to Michigan Cable 9/84.
Lake Orion, Orion Twp—final award to Tribune-United 12/27/84 (7,800 homes).
North Branch—award to Michigan Cable 8/84.
Thortonville—award to Michigan Cable.
Waconia—award to Westel 12/18/84 (1,024 homes).

Minnesota
Amboy—award to Mid Communications Inc. 7/84 (280 homes).
Barrett—award to Battlelake Cable 7/84 (165 homes).
Belle Plaine—award to Dow-Sat of Minnesota 11/9/84 (973 homes).
Big Lake, Buffalo, Cokato, Dassel, Delano, Elk River, Monticello, Rockford, Watertown, Maple Lake—award to Rite Cable, under construction. (10,200 homes).
Bird Island—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (566 homes).
Cannon Falls—award to North American Cable Communications Corp. (1,060 homes).
Credit River—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (880 homes).
Eden Valley and Watkins—award to WesTel Inc. 2/84 (640 homes).
Floodwood—award to Individual Satellite System Inc. 8/84 (325 homes).
Glenville—award to WesTel 6/84 (275 homes).
Good Thunder—award to Mid Communications Inc. 7/84 (225 homes).
Grand Meadow—award to Southern Cablevision Inc. 9/84 (360 homes).
Hill City—award to Individual Satellite Systems 11/84 (400 homes).
Hinckley—award to Savage Communications 7/84 (420 homes).
Hokah—award to Valley Video Systems Inc. 7/84 (270 homes).
Holdingford—award to WesTel Inc. 2/84 (245 homes).
Howard Lake—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (510 homes).



Chicago's Franchise Area 1 contract was signed by Mayor Harold Washington late last month awarding the franchise to Communications and Cable. The franchisee has until March 29 to accept the agreement.

Morristown—award to Cannon Valley Telecom Inc. 7/84 (250 homes).
Morton—award to Todd Communications Inc. 5/84 (225 homes).
Murdock—award to Cavanaugh Cable Co. 6/84 (140 homes).
New Prague—award to Valley View Cable Inc. 7/84 (1,130 homes).
Nisswa—award to Interlake Cablevision Inc. 5/84 (1,100 homes).
Northern Dakota City—preliminary award to Continental (25,000 homes).
Pierz—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (420 homes).
Renville—award to WesTel Inc. 7/84 (600 homes).
Rite—award to Benton Cooperative Telephone Co. 8/84 (165 homes).
St. Joseph—award to WesTel Inc. (1,100 homes).
St. Paul—city wins appeal in favor of Continental Cablevision (111,000 homes).
Sandstone—award to Savage Communications 9/84 (560 homes).
Savage—evaluating proposals from North American Cable Communications and Rite Cable (1,272 homes).
Sherburn—award to Rite Cable (10,200 homes).
Spring Grove—award to Valley Video Systems 8/84 (560 homes).
Spring Lake—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (920 homes).
TriCity Cable Commission (Cold Springs, Richmond, Rockville)—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (1,200 homes).
Truman—award to Terril Telephone Co. 5/84 (550 homes).
Waconia—award to Westel 12/18/84 (1,024 homes).
Waterville, Elysian—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (750 homes).
Waubeen—award to Harold Investments Inc. 9/84 (150 homes).
Wendell—award to M & E Cable 4/84 (95 homes).
West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Inner Grove Heights, Lilydale, Sinfish Lake—preliminary award to Continental Cablevision 6/6/84 (24,032 homes).
Windom—approved municipal ownership, launched 2/1/84 (1,875 homes).

Missouri

St. Louis—award to STL Cablevision Partners Inc. (75% of city) and St. Louis City Communications (25% of city) 4/11/84 (178,000 homes).

New Hampshire

Keene—received one proposal from Group W. Group W currently under a non-exclusive franchise until 1991. (22,000 homes).
Manchester—award to United Cable.
Newton—negotiating with Harron Communications (1,124 homes).
Sandown—cable committee has recommended Continental Cable to Board of Selectmen. Board will vote in March to negotiate final agreement.

New Jersey

Jersey City—moving ahead on municipal ownership despite lawsuit by Controlled Cable originally granted franchise.
Patterson—reviewing proposals from Marsh Media, Greater Media, Patterson Communications Network, Patterson Cable Services and U.S. Cable and TCI (55,000 homes).

New York

Mt. Upton—terminated franchise process.
North Salem—award to Community Cable Services 12/84 (1,100 homes).
Portland—cable committee formed to begin franchise process. Tribune Cable, Harborview and U.S. Cable sent letters expressing interest (150 homes).

North Carolina

Davie County—award to Summit Cable.
Jackson—award to Cable East (400 homes).

Ohio

Avon—award to Space Cable of Ohio 4/23/84 (2,000 homes).
Brooklyn—municipal ownership under consideration (4,000 homes).
Cleveland—RFPs issued, bids due 3/15/85.
Oberlin—preliminary award to Oberlin Cable Co-op 6/6/84 (2,600 homes).

Oregon

Dunthorpe—no response to RFP.
Seattle—city is divided into four parts; Group W, Viacom and Seattle Community Cablevision serve overlapping sections of three parts; part IV is beginning franchising process.
Sylvan—awaiting legal opinion needed for commission to vote on Sylvan Video Cable (1,200 homes).

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia—city is divided into four areas; Area I award to Greater Philadelphia Cablevision; Area II award to Wade Communications; Area III award to Rollins; Area IV award to Comcast 11/84 (each area: 155,000 homes).

Rhode Island

Battleground—negotiating with Cox Cable (1,000 homes).
Newport (Area 7 includes Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton)—award to Bellevue Cablevision Inc.; appealed before Rhode Island Superior Court and Rhode Island Supreme Court (29,500 homes).

Virginia

Manassas—reviewing proposals from Cablevision of Manassas Ltd., Teleset Communications Inc., C4 Media of Manassas Ltd. and City of Manassas Cable (5,510 homes).

Washington

Battle Ground—negotiating with Cox Cable (1,000 homes).

Wisconsin

Hayward—award to Cable TV of Hayward (1,000 homes).
New Glarus—award to Telephone and Data Systems 7/17/84 (675 homes).
Waterford—award to Total TV 9/84 (600 homes).

Source: International Thomson Communications Inc.

Franchising in the top 50 markets

Rank	Market	Status of core city
1.	New York	Manhattan—2-OP; outer boroughs 8-FG
2.	Los Angeles	City is divided into 14 areas (A-n): 11-OP, 3-UC
3.	Chicago	City is divided into five areas: Area I-FP, Areas II, III-OP, Areas IV, V-FG
4.	Philadelphia	City is divided into four areas: Areas I, II, III, IV-FG
5.	San Francisco	OP (system to be upgraded)
6.	Boston	OP
7.	Detroit	FG
8.	Washington, D.C.	FG
9.	Cleveland	RP
10.	Dallas/Ft. Worth	Two systems-OP
11.	Houston	Two systems-OP
12.	Pittsburgh	OP
13.	Miami	OP
14.	Seattle/Tacoma	City is divided into five parts: (4-OP), (1-BP); Tacoma-OP
15.	Minneapolis/St. Paul	OP/UC
16.	Atlanta	OP
17.	St. Louis	UC/FG
18.	Tampa/St. Petersburg	OP/OP
19.	Denver	OP
20.	Baltimore	FG
21.	Sacramento/ Stockton	OP/OP
22.	Indianapolis	Two systems-OP
23.	Portland	Three systems-OP
24.	Phoenix	Three systems-OP
25.	Hartford/ New Haven	Two systems-OP
26.	Cincinnati	OP
27.	San Diego	Two systems-OP
28.	Kansas City	OP
29.	Milwaukee	OP
30.	Nashville	OP
31.	Charlotte	OP
32.	Buffalo	OP
33.	Providence/ New Bedford	OP/OP
34.	Orlando/ Daytona Beach	Two systems-OP
35.	New Orleans	OP
36.	Memphis	OP
37.	Columbus	Four systems-OP
38.	Greenville/Asheville/Spartansburg	Three systems-OP
39.	Grand Rapids/ Kalamazoo/ Battle Creek	Three systems-OP
40.	Birmingham	OP
41.	Raleigh/Durham	Two systems-OP
42.	Oklahoma City	Two systems-OP
43.	Louisville	Two systems-OP
44.	Salt Lake City	OP
45.	San Antonio	OP
46.	Charleston/ Huntington	Two systems-OP
47.	Norfolk/Newport News/New Hampton/Portsmouth	Four systems-OP
48.	Harrisburg/York/ Lebanon/Lancaster	Four systems-OP
49.	Wilkes Barre/ Scranton	Two systems-OP
50.	Albany/Schenectady/Troy	Three systems-OP

Legend

OP — operational
UC — under construction
FG — franchise granted
FP — franchise pending
PS — proposal submitted
RP — request for proposals issued
RPP — request for proposals pending
MO — considering municipal ownership
BP — beginning process

Source: International Thomson Communications Inc.